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U.S. MARINES EMBRACE GAY BAN REPEAL

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FORMER CHILD SINGER SPEAKS OF TABLOID TORMENT {page 17}

STUDY SHOWS DOG OWNERS STAY ACTIVE

{page 21}

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p: Paul Morrison

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News worth sharing.

MLA to live on welfare

Surrey politician hopes the experience will help him understand issues around poverty

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

Jagrup Brar admits he doesn't have intimate knowledge of poverty.

Sure, the Surrey-Fleetwood MLA has seen government briefs on homelessness, housing and social assistance, and has spoken extensively with constituents about the issues.

But he's never had to live that life — until now.

Brar announced yesterday he has accepted the Raise the Rate coalition's challenge to live on the equivalent of welfare, $610, in January.

"Although I see the numbers, I don't really understand what it's like," the NDP MLA said. "There are a lot of stigmas out there and often they're completely different in reality."

He plans to live in a single-room occupancy hotel, meet people living on welfare, and find out about the services that assist people on a daily basis.

It's just for one month, but Brar hopes the experience gives him a proper on-the-ground education on the issues surrounding poverty.

"The key for me is to experience first-hand what life is like for the 180,000 B.C. families and individuals who live on welfare," Brar said. MATT KIELTYKA

Surrey-Fleetwood MLA Jagrup Brar will spend a month living on $610 after accepting the MLA Welfare Challenge yesterday.

Negotiations

No copout

B.C. and Ottawa are closer to deal on new 20-year Mountie contract Extension could be imminent

{page 3}

Canuck in the classroom

Alex Burrows thrills students with visit

{page 4}

Buono voyage?

Lions players expect coach to resign but retain a management role

{page 24}

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B.C. deficit forecast grows by $300M

B.C.'s finance minister is backing away from a firm government pledge to balance the budget in time for the next election.

Kevin Falcon delivered his second quarterly financial report yesterday, saying revenues have decreased by $303 million and the government is now projecting a year-end deficit above $3 billion.

He said the deterioration of international economies will impact B.C.'s bottom line.

When asked if he could still meet his government's balanced-budget pledge, Falcon responded: "It depends.

"I'll know by mid-January. The track is very concerning. Balancing in 2013-14, as of today, is still possible."

The deficit for this year is now projected to be $3.1 billion, compared to $2.8 projected at the end of the last quarter.

When the budget for the year was presented last February, the government included a $350-million forecast allowance, a buffer against dropping revenues.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JEFF HODSON/METRO FILE

▶ B.C. Finance Minister Kevin Falcon

STIG NIELSEN/METRO FILE

▶ RCMP at the Olympic Cauldron during the 2010 Winter Games in Vancouver.

Province narrowing in on RCMP extension

Proposed 20-year contract being reviewed Talks between B.C., federal RCMP salvaged after standstill in September

MATT KIELTYKA
@METRONEWS.CA

Mounties are preparing to saddle up for another 20-year mission in British Columbia.

A possible contract extension between the federal RCMP and the province — negotiating with a block of other provinces — could be imminent after the two sides hammered out a proposed contract last week.

"The deputy ministers are going to go back to their provinces with the proposal," said Langley Mayor Peter Fassbender, a municipal observer in the negotiations.

The provinces were given until the end of the month to tell the federal government they intend to renew their service contract with the RCMP.

A deal looked unlikely in late September, when word of the Ottawa-imposed ultimatum and volatile negotiations were made public.

At the time, B.C.'s solicitor general Shirley Bond said she flat-out refused the RCMP's initial contract offer and said she wouldn't sign a contract without cost assurances, accountability and governance measures in place.

She even said the province may be forced into looking at establishing its own provincial police force.

Fassbender said all of those issues have now been resolved, though he could not comment on the specific details in the contract.

"I've been pleased with the willingness for everyone to get back to the table and work together," he said. "Our concerns have been clearly on the table for several years."

After reviewing the proposed deal, each province must inform the federal government of their intention to re-sign soon.

British Columbia has the largest number of RCMP officers deployed in the country and is the biggest player in a coalition of provinces and territories negotiating new policing contracts.

1 news

Police blotter: Frosty the Snowman catches an assault beef after an alleged scuffle with police at a Christmas parade in Maryland. Scan the code for the story.

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Make sure the bottle caps are securely fastened to your ugly stick, because it's time for the mummers parade in St. John's. Video at metronews.ca/video

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Burnaby students go crazy for a Canuck

Winning class gets surprise visit from Alex Burrows ◆ Canucks winger says it's great talking to kids about sports and perseverance

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS/METRO

▶ Alex Burrows waits to surprise the winning class at Aubrey Elementary in Burnaby yesterday.

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA

Alex Burrows hid in a corner of a classroom yesterday, waiting to surprise a group of Grade 3 and 4 students.

But one student shouted to his classmates, "Here he is. Alex Burrows is here."

The class won the Bring Burrows to School contest, sponsored by EA Sports, as part of a youth and hockey initiative.

The Canucks winger spent time signing jerseys and even the tail of a plush whale for a French immersion class at Aubrey Elementary in Burnaby.

Burrows said it gives him great joy talking to children about the importance of working hard.

"I used to look up to professional athletes, to Montreal Canadiens players, and they inspired me to follow my dreams," he said. "I think that's really important for the youth to dream big and focus on what they've got to do to become successful."

Sierra Ford, 8, couldn't stop smiling as Burrows finally reached her desk to sign her Canucks sweater.

"I was just really excited. I couldn't believe it," Ford said, adding she'll never forget the day she met her favourite Canucks player.

Teacher Jennifer West said the YouTube video they submitted for the contest really showed a class crazy for the Canucks, including still shots of the classroom emblazoned with posters, signs and flags.

West said the opportunity was great for the kids as most of them would never get a chance to watch a game live.

"This is the highlight of our school," West said. "If (the children) aren't crazy Canucks fans already, this may have done it."

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

▶ Housing Minister Rich Coleman

Housing at the forefront

Housing Minister Rich Coleman says significant inroads are being made in the quest to end homelessness.

When presenting a new supportive housing project in Vancouver yesterday, Coleman said there are 6,000 fewer homeless people in the province than there were five years ago.

"It's all about a vision to helping those in need," he said. "We're going to continue to build this to break the cycle of homelessness."

The new project at 1249 Howe St., which will be run by the McLaren Housing Society, is the ninth of 14 projects that the city and province are developing under a partnership agreement.

110

The supportive housing project at 1249 Howe St. will provide 110 apartments for homeless people with HIV/AIDS.

MATT KIELTYKA

Mayor hoping for some shelter relief from HEAT

MATT KIELTYKA/METRO

▶ Mayor Gregor Robertson

Vancouver's mayor says negotiations over winter shelters are coming down to the wire.

With a frigid December fast approaching, the provincial government has thus far refused to commit to funding four HEAT shelters, which have provided 160 temporary shelter beds over the past two winters.

"We've still got people outside with winter hitting us. We need more capacity," said Mayor Gregor Robertson. "The operating costs are the responsibility of the province. It's up to the city to provide the buildings. We're happy to do that, we need the province to carry their share of this."

Robertson says he's been having many "back and forths" with B.C. Housing and Minister Rich Coleman.

MATT KIELTYKA

CFL CHAMPS

Get ready for a Grey Cup party

There won't be a victory parade, but fans will get a chance to celebrate the B.C. Lions' Grey Cup win in one big free party at BC Place tomorrow night.

The Leos will toast their 34-23 victory over the Winnipeg Blue Bombers in a public gathering from 6 to 8 p.m., the football club said in a statement issued yesterday.

Fans can enter through gates A or H, off Terry Fox Plaza, beginning at 5 p.m.

Mayor Gregor Robertson said he supports the decision to have it at BC Place.

Robertson also said the festival weekend couldn't have gone any better.

"There were very different crowds, more mature and a bit older," he said. "It was a much different weekend and a fantastic success for us."

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS

Police investigate flying tree

Reindeer are supposed to fly, not Christmas trees.

But a Christmas fir went aloft over Kelowna on the weekend, if you believe a report made to the Mounties.

A 32-year woman told the police she tied a helium balloon to the tree to impress some friends during a scavenger hunt, but the tree got away from her.

Police say Kelowna airport was alerted, but there's been no sign of the tree since it went airborne.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jewelry found in stolen car

The Mounties in B.C. and Alberta are trying to find the owners of $75,000 worth of jewelry found in a car near Kamloops.

Police stopped the vehicle for speeding on Highway 5 Nov. 19 and when they searched it they found the jewelry — including more than 100 18-karat gold rings — and a small amount of marijuana. A 41-year-old Edmonton man was arrested for possession of stolen property. The RCMP say the jewelry was stolen in Alberta. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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JENNIFER GAUTHIER/METRO FILE

▶ Vancouverites can expect more weather that resembles this scene on Davie Street last November.

Hunker down: Wild weather coming

But skiers rejoice La Nina means lots of snow

PHYLICIA TORREVILLAS
@METRONEWS.CA

B.C. is in for a stormy winter this year.

The Weather Network's Chris Scott, meteorologist and forecast operations manager, is predicting a "fairly active" winter for the southern part of the province.

"If you've got some major trips planned, it's the time of the year to be aware of what's going on with the weather because we do think we'll see our share of storms," Scott said.

"We've had some early tastes of it, but we've got a few more on the way."

For the North and Central B.C., temperatures are expected to be below normal, while the South Coast areas and Interior will be near normal.

It's good news for skiers and snowboarders, Scott said, as a lot of precipitation will fall as snow in the mountains especially for the North Shore ski hills.

"We have La Nina in the Pacific Ocean ... so we'll get these weeks where we can get hit with a number of storms in a row, and we think we'll get into those patterns on and off this winter."

He urges everyone to be prepared by making sure snow-clearing equipment is ready, wearing good footwear for slush and putting snow tires on their cars.

MUSHROOM FARM GAS LEAK

Bad design cited in deaths

A gas leak at a mushroom farm that killed three workers was the result of a poorly designed compost facility that did not have adequate safety measures, Worksafe BC has determined.

Three workers were killed and two were left with severe brain injuries in September 2008 at a farm in Langley after a toxic mix of gasses leaked as workers tried to clear a clogged pipe.

Last week, a judge imposed fines of $350,000 on two companies and three owners, who pleaded guilty this year.

The Worksafe BC report found flaws in the design of the compost facility's water-recycling system that allowed straw and sludge to enter the system and clog the pipe. Recycled water became stagnant and produced toxic gases. The facility was also in a confined space without safety measures to protect the workers.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Teacher talks break down

Contract talks have broken off between the B.C. government and its teachers. Susan Lambert, president of the B.C. Teachers' Federation, said the province walked away from negotiations yesterday. She says the breakdown means classes will remain oversized and special-needs students will be without adequate support. The education minister was unavailable to comment last night. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Canada to pull out of Kyoto?

Canada heads into climate talks in South Africa this week, refusing to publicly show its hand on whether it's in or out of the only global treaty on limiting greenhouse gas emissions.

Environment Minister Peter Kent says his goal for the meetings in Durban is to come out with a new deal that gets all major emitters involved in cutting greenhouse gas emissions, be they developed or developing economies.

But Kent refused to either confirm or deny reports that Canada in fact plans to walk away for the Kyoto accord altogether.

"This is not the time to make an announcement," he told a news conference yesterday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

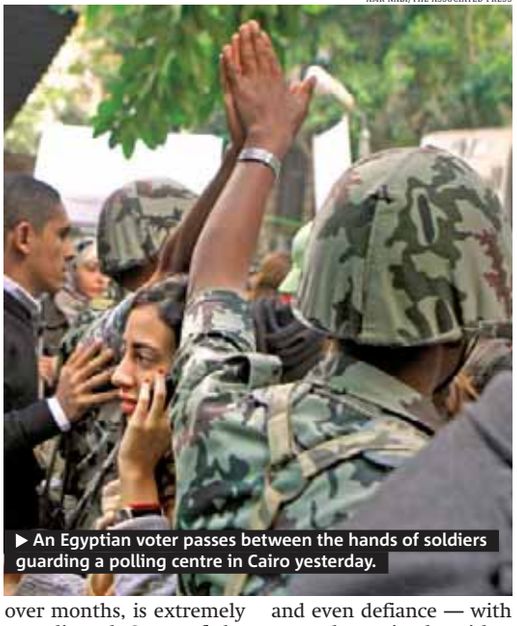
EYE IN THE SKY PHOTOGRAPHY/GREENPEACE

▶ Greenpeace activists brought their message to Parliament Hill using hundreds of LED lights.

Egypt heads to the polls for first free election in decades

Parliament that emerges from vote may have little relevance if military sharply limits its power

AMR NABI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ An Egyptian voter passes between the hands of soldiers guarding a polling centre in Cairo yesterday.

They waited in long lines for hours to vote, despite a new wave of unrest, fears about a sharply divided society and uncertainty over the nation's future.

For the millions of Egyptians who cast ballots yesterday, the first parliamentary elections since they ousted Hosni Mubarak were a turning point in history — if for no other reason than they were finally getting a chance to be heard after decades of rigged voting.

The outcome will indicate whether one of America's most important Middle East allies will remain secular or move down a more Islamic path, as have other countries swept up in the Arab Spring.

"I have hope this time," said Amal Fathy, a 50-year-old government employee who wears the Islamic veil, as she patiently waited to vote. "I may not live long enough to see change, but my grandchildren will."

"If you have waited for 30 years, can't you wait now for another hour?"
AN ARMY OFFICER, YELLING AT HUNDREDS OF RESTLESS WOMEN AT A POLLING CENTRE IN CAIRO

Since the uprising that forced out Mubarak nearly 10 months ago, Egyptians had looked forward to this day as a celebration of freedom after years of stifling dictatorship. Instead, there has been deep disappointment with the military rulers who replaced the old regime and a new wave of protests and clashes that began 10 days before the vote.

Adding to the disarray, the multiple-stage election process, which will stretch over months, is extremely complicated. Some of the key political players complained they did not have enough time or the right conditions to organize for the vote.

If there was little jubilation, there was hope — and even defiance — with many determined to either push the military from power or vote against the Muslim Brotherhood and other Islamist groups who are expected to dominate the balloting.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Banned players settle with gay softball group

A gay softball organization has agreed to pay an undisclosed sum to three players who were disqualified from its 2008 Gay Softball World Series because of their perceived heterosexuality.

The men — Stephen Apilado, Laron Charles and John Russ, who played for a San Francisco-based team called D2 — filed the federal lawsuit against the North American Gay Amateur Athletic Alliance last year, claiming they had been discriminated against because they were bisexual, not gay.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

School board skirts the issue

Thanks to ever-rising hemlines, the Catholic District School Board in Durham Region was to discuss yesterday whether to eliminate kilts as part of the school uniform.

The final decision would be left to parents at each of the seven Toronto-area high schools.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Drop parking fees: CMA

Hospitals should stop charging patients for parking, the Canadian Medical Association Journal said yesterday in an editorial, arguing that parking charges are a health-care user fee in disguise. THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in pictures

PHOTOS
1. JEROME DELAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
2. TIMM SCHAMBERGER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
3. ALTAF QADRI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
4. THOMAS LOHNES/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
5. ZVEKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

1 Supporters of opposition candidate Etienne Tshisekedi parade what they claim are fraudulent photocopies of election ballots allegedly found in Kinshasa, Democratic Republic of Congo, yesterday.

2 The trial began yesterday for Adolf B. (no family name given due to German laws) in Nuremberg yesterday. Prosecutors say the 69-year-old forced his daughter to have sex with him in their home or car, starting when she was 12 or 13.

3 A Thai woman texts on her cellphone as she wades through knee-high floodwaters on the outskirts of Bangkok yesterday.

4 Protesters brave overnight cold yesterday as they camp outside the interim storage facility in Gorleben, northern Germany, as they try to stop 11 containers of reprocessed nuclear waste from reaching the area.

5 Kosovar Serbs clash with German NATO peacekeepers as the NATO troops work to remove a roadblock near Jagnjenica, Kosovo, yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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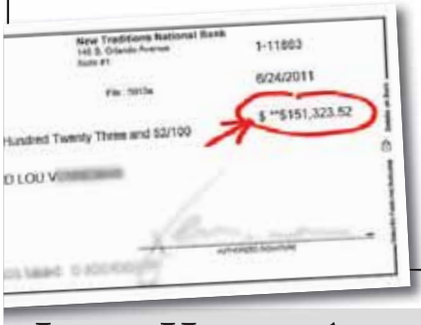

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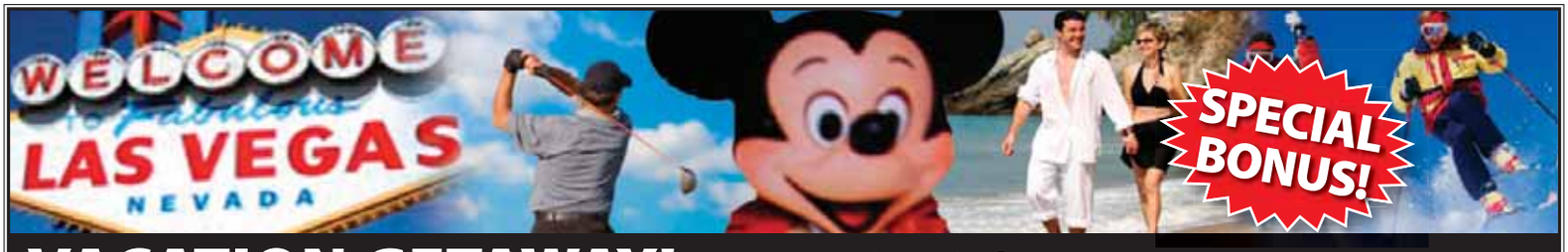

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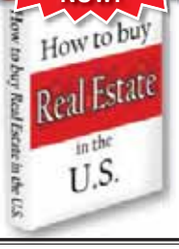

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Actor Tobey Maguire settles poker lawsuit

Tobey Maguire has decided to fold 'em and settle a lawsuit over his winnings from a convicted con man during high-stakes Hollywood poker games.

The Spider-Man star agreed to pay $80,000 US to settle the lawsuit filed over more than $311,000 he was paid by a convicted Ponzi scheme operator in Texas Hold 'Em matches that included celebrities, businessmen and others, court documents state.

If approved by a judge next month, Maguire will pay the money to a bankruptcy trustee who is trying to recoup money that former hedge fund operator Bradley Ruderman bilked from investors to finance his lavish lifestyle.

The money will be used to repay victims of the scheme, which Maguire and other players were unaware of.

CHARLES SYKES/ASSOCIATED PRESS FILE

▶ Maguire

Court records show that 14 of the 22 people sued to recoup poker winnings have settled their cases. Howard Ehrenberg, the bankruptcy trustee who sued the group, said yesterday Maguire's payout to resolve the case is in the same range as others who agreed to settlements.

$1.7M
Howard Ehrenberg, the bankruptcy trustee who sued the group, said yesterday the poker settlements total more than $1.7 million.

"He did not end up with any better settlement than the others," Ehrenberg said.

Maguire's settlement states he "strongly disputes that he violated any laws, rules or regulations in regard to participating in the poker games," but was agreeing to the payment to avoid fighting the case, which would be costly.

The actor signed the settlement on Nov. 22 and it was filed a day later with a bankruptcy court handling the lawsuits.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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ANJA NIEDRINGHAUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Brazilian Paulo Sergio Pinheiro, who is leading the UN investigation into human-rights abuses in Syria, gestures during a press conference in Geneva yesterday.

Children killed in Syria: UN

Syria's has been bloodiest response to Arab Spring protests 3,500 people have been killed since March: UN

A UN investigation concluded yesterday that Syrian forces committed crimes against humanity by killing and torturing hundreds of children, including a two-year-old girl reportedly shot to death so she wouldn't grow up to be a demonstrator.

The inquiry added to mounting international pressure on President Bashar Assad, a day after the Arab League approved sweeping sanctions to push his embattled regime to end the violence. Syria's foreign minister called the Arab move "a declaration of economic war" and warned of retaliation.

The report by a UN Human Rights Council panel found that at least 256 children were killed by government forces between mid-March and early November, some of them tortured to death.

The UN defines a child as anyone under the age of 18. The report was compiled by a panel of independent experts who were not allowed into Syria. However, the commission interviewed 223 victims and witnesses, including defectors from Syria's military and security forces.

The panel said government forces were given "shoot to kill" orders to crush demonstrations.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Israel offers apology to pregnant photographer

Israel's Defence Ministry apologized yesterday for the treatment of a pregnant American news photographer who said she was strip-searched by Israeli soldiers during a security check.

Lynsey Addario, who was on assignment for the New York Times, had requested that she not be forced to go through an X-ray machine as she entered Israel from the Gaza Strip because of concerns for her unborn baby.

Instead, she wrote in a letter to the ministry, she was forced through the machine three times as soldiers "watched and laughed from above."

The Oct. 25 letter said that Addario, a Pulitzer Prize winner who is based in India and has worked in more than 60 countries, had never been treated with "such blatant cruelty."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Report blames Brit riots on weak policing

A report on the riots that hit Britain this summer says the violence spread across the country because of weak policing.

The independent Riots Communities and Victims Panel says people believed police did not deal well with the riots that broke out after a demonstration over a fatal police shooting in north London turned violent.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

I'VE SAVED YOU MONEY... NOW I'M MAKING YOU MONEY

Lee Romanov, , Consumer Advocate
President, Income Activator

Over the last 15 years I created and sold one of the most successful Internet businesses in Canada, saving thousands of people thousands of dollars.

As you know... there are millions of dollars flowing through the Internet every day. I've taken all of my Internet experience and combined it with a website program I created, **IncomeActivator.com**, to allow you to tap into this money flow.

If you've ever wanted to run your own online business, or if you have a website that's not making the kind of money you thought it would... you'll be interested in what I have to say.

I show you:

1. What people are searching for online.
2. The number of online searches being done for any topic or business.
3. Which online searches are the most valuable and how they can make you money.

Then I give you a website and show you how to:

1. Capture these online searches.
2. Convert your visitor traffic into various revenue streams for yourself.

These are the same techniques I used to make millions of dollars online, and this is the website program I use today.

I understand being broke, and how hard it is to make money and keep things together financially. I've been there, done that, and I'm never doing it again. I share with you what I spent years learning, and have combined that into the **Income Activator website program allowing you to create your own online income** regardless of your computer skills or Internet experience.

Income Activator allows you to begin **your own online business**, or will help you grow and ease your frustrations with **your existing online business.**

You will be given techniques to create revenue streams from writing copy to assembling pictures or videos on your website.

When you **understand what to do**, and have the Income Activator website program that allows you to do it, **only then will you realize the wealth the Internet can bring you.**

It will change your life... it changed mine.

My name is Lee Romanov and I launched one of the first Internet businesses in North America that made millions of dollars, even in the 90s.

After recently selling my business to Torstar (one of the largest media companies in Canada and owner of the Toronto Star) I combined all of my Internet experience along with my **immense frustration of technology** and created a website program called **IncomeActivator.com.**

You may know me as a Consumer Advocate helping people save thousands of dollars off their car insurance rates through the company I created, InsuranceHotline.com. It's a rate comparison website providing the lowest quote to drivers from over 30 insurance companies. You may also know me from my Talk TV show on CP24, or from my columns in either the Toronto Star or Globe and Mail.

Income Activator allows anyone, at any level, to own and operate a successful online business exactly like the pros. You can activate multiple revenue streams with the click of a mouse while having complete control over your website. You can put up your own pages, pictures, videos, links, create questionnaires and collect data even if you're a one finger typist; and not at all computer savvy.

You can tap into the millions of dollars flowing through the Internet every day.

If you don't have a product or service to sell, you can simply provide information on a topic you are interested in. IncomeActivator.com gives you the 'know how' and website to put this it into action.

You can put up ads that pay you when a visitor clicks on them, sell products or books, or get paid from lead generation, all with the click of a mouse. Income Activator works for any business imaginable.

A few weeks back IncomeActivator.com helped Pat Foran of CTV with the launch of his website and new book The Smart Savvy Young Consumer. Pat would not describe himself as an Internet or computer guy. He's a broadcaster, consumer advocate, and author, who has complete control over his website (www.PatForan.com) and Internet business where you can go right now and buy his books.

I lived through the frustration of trying to get clear answers to Internet questions.

I spent tens of thousands of dollars looking to experts for answers... like how to get search engines to display your website at the top of the search pages. What I found was that each internet expert had only one piece of the puzzle, and none of their solutions came with the technology to put this into action.

I learned... **if it's Not Actionable... it's Not Useful.**

I know from experience that an online business can be **Extremely Profitable** and can truly get people out of their financial struggles and allow them to do the things they're interested in and meaningful to their lives.

I am sick and tired of seeing these 'Get Rich Quick' schemes that take people's money and Do Not Work.

My heart goes out to business owners who spend good money only to have their websites out of date the day after it goes online. If you can't use your website as a marketing tool every day, it'll never be much more than an expensive brochure. You need to be able to go in and tweak your website regularly to capture new online search traffic, and expand your revenue streams.

If you're running Google AdSense on your website, Income Activator has it's own Pay Per Click program where you can keep 100% of the click revenue. It also has a built in Referral Program that tracks and bills for lead generation. You can also send out messages to your email lists, or create an online store that tracks and bills for you. It also has a secured Member's section you can activate.

Income Activator is designed to make you successful, not dependant, like other programs out there.

If you have a website you can easily transfer over your content to begin activating multiple revenue streams **I've made it embarrassingly simple.**

I also learned never take advice from someone that's never made money online.

When creating Income Activator I included both my marketing strategies and revenue streams.

Income Activator provides a real opportunity for wealth. It's not a get rich quick scheme.

If what I'm saying is of interest, **you need to be proactive as I'm limiting the sale** of the Income Activator website program to the first 2,100 people at an introductory price. You will then become part of a select group of people sharing their knowledge while growing their online business.

Owning your own online business is fun and exciting... it can make you rich when you know what to do and have the technology to do it. I am **making myself available for the next 3 weeks** to answer any questions related to online marketing or Income Activator specifically. **I invite you visit www.IncomeActivator.com now.** I am also giving away **one Income Activator website for Free...** all you need to do is tell me your best online marketing story.

What I know now is that……**if it's Actionable……it's Valuable!**

www.incomeactivator.com

Repeal of DADT going smoothly

Change being embraced across the U.S. military Soldiers more focused on mission than the issue

Marine Gen. James F. Amos, the face of opposition in the military to lifting the ban on gays serving openly, now says his concern the repeal would undermine the war effort has proven unfounded. In fact, he says, marines have embraced the change.

Amos even called the repeal in September "a non-event."

That's in contrast to his cautionary words to Congress in December 2010, shortly before President Barack Obama signed the repeal legislation. The ban wasn't lifted until this year to allow the Pentagon to prepare troops for the change.

He now sees no sign of disruption in the ranks — even on the front lines.

"I'm very pleased with how it has gone," Amos said during a weeklong trip that included four days in Afghanistan, where he heard nary a word of worry about gays.

A Defence Department spokeswoman said implementation of the repeal of the gay ban is proceeding smoothly across the military.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Looking back

- Looking back, Amos said he had no regrets about publicly opposing repeal during wartime. He said he had felt obliged, as commandant of the corps, to set aside his personal opinions and represent the views of the 56 per cent of combat marines who told a Defence Department survey last year that repeal could make them less effective and cohesive in combat.
- "I think I did exactly what I should have done," Amos said. "I've never looked back on it and said (my concern) was misplaced."

GREGORY BULL/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Active-duty and former navy sailors march in the Gay Pride Parade in San Diego back in July.

British military cutting search-and-rescue

Britain's military will stop providing a helicopter search-and-rescue service, the government said yesterday, meaning daring operations like the one by Prince William and his Royal Air Force colleagues that saved two sailors this weekend will in the future be carried out by civilians.

The contracts will be awarded to civilian rescue crews once the air force retires its fleet of Sea King helicopters by March 2016.

The British government has announced deep cuts to the defence ministry's annual $58-billion defence budget, as part of the country's national austerity program.

Currently, search and rescue duties are handled by both civilian crews and specialist military units — including William's team based at RAF Valley, on the island of Anglesey, off north Wales.

"We are confident that ... a fully civilian service will be able to maintain the same standards in the future," Transport Secretary Justine Greening said in a statement.

William, an RAF search and rescue co-pilot who is known professionally as Flight Lt. William Wales, was deployed in gale force winds early on Sunday after the Swanland cargo ship sank in the Irish Sea.

Second officer Roman Savin, 26, and Able Seaman Vitaly Karpenko, 48, were rescued by William's helicopter, but authorities confirmed Chief Officer Leonid Safonov, 50, was found dead.

Searches yesterday failed to find five others who remain missing from the Cook Islands-registered ship, which was carrying thousands of tonnes of limestone.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

JOHN STILLWELL/WPA POOL/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Prince William at the controls of a Sea King helicopter during a training exercise in March.

Stalin's daughter dies in U.S.

Soviet dictator Josef Stalin's daughter, whose defection to the West during the Cold War embarrassed the ruling communists and made her a bestselling author, has died. She was 85.

Lana Peters — who was known internationally by her previous name, Svetlana Alliluyeva — died of colon cancer Nov. 22 in Wisconsin where she lived off and on after becoming a U.S. citizen, a cororner said yesterday.

Her defection in 1967 caused an international furor and was a public relations coup for the U.S.

In the book, she called her father a distant and paranoid man.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

STEVE APPS/AP/WISCONSIN STATE JOURNAL

▶ Lana Peters

WikiLeaks suspect says review by White House clears him

The Army intelligence analyst suspected of giving classified material to WikiLeaks says a White House review has concluded that the alleged leaks did no real damage to national security.

Pfc. Bradley Manning's defence attorney made the claim in a court filing he released publicly yesterday. Manning's first hearing is set for Dec. 16.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Teen refuses to 'tweetract'

Since insulting Kansas governor on Twitter, Emma Sullivan gets to about 3,000 followers, up from 65

A U.S. teenager who wrote a disparaging tweet about Kansas Gov. Sam Brownback said yesterday she is rejecting her high school principal's demand for a written apology.

Emma Sullivan, 18, said she isn't sorry and doesn't think such a letter would be sincere.

The Shawnee Mission East senior was taking part in a Youth in Government program last week when she sent out a tweet from the back of a crowd of students listening to Brownback's greeting. From her cellphone she thumbed: "Just made mean comments at gov. brownback and told him he sucked, in person #heblowsalot."

"I would do it again."
EMMA SULLIVAN

She actually made no such comment and said she was "just joking with friends." But Brownback's office, which monitors social media for postings containing the governor's name, saw Sullivan's post and contacted the Youth in Government program.

Sullivan received a scolding at school and was ordered to send Brownback an apology letter.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Searching. The sea

▶ A rescue worker is secured by a line as he searches for two men that were swept into the sea by a wave during storm Berit, outside of Egersund in Norway on Sunday.

KENT SKIBSTAD, SCANPIX NORWAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Storm kills 2 in Norway

Police in Norway said two people have been killed and two more are missing after hurricane-strength winds slammed into Norway's southwestern coast.

No charges in hockey hazing

Neepawa RCMP say no charges will be laid after a rural Manitoba hockey team was accused of assaulting players during a hazing incident.

A wave of parental and media outrage was unleashed in late September after a 15-year-old boy and his parents went public about the incident, in which they claimed the teen had been forced to parade around the locker room with a water bottle carrier tied to his scrotum.

They also claimed seven teens in total were subjected to the treatment.

ELISHA DACEY IN WINNIPEG

Manitoba league

- The hazing scandal saw assistant coach Brad Biggers resign from the team after four players said he was present when it happened.
- The Manitoba Junior Hockey League also suspended 16 players as well as the head coach.

Fraudster targeting seniors

Police in Winnipeg are on the hunt for a man posing as a maintenance worker in senior citizens' apartment complexes.

Police said the man has targeted several complexes, where he poses as a family member to get inside. Once he gains access, he goes to various suites pretending to be a security guard or maintenance worker.

ELISHA DACEY IN WINNIPEG

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‘Still occupied’: L.A. activists refuse to leave encampments

Police back down from evicting Occupy Wall Street camp ‘I definitely expected to be in jail by 3 a.m. I’m happy we’re still here’: Protester

BRET HARTMAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Occupy Los Angeles supporters cheer yesterday after the LAPD reopened streets and left the camp in front of Los Angeles City Hall. Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa had said Friday that the campsite would be dismantled starting at 12:01 a.m. yesterday.

Deadlines for Occupy Wall Street protesters to leave their encampments came and went in Los Angeles with four people taken into custody several hours after the midnight deadline passed.

Los Angeles police Chief Charlie Beck said it remained unclear when the nearly two-month-old Occupy L.A. camp would be cleared. About half of the 485 tents had been taken down as of Sunday night, leaving patches of the park around city hall barren of grass and strewn with garbage.

“There is no concrete deadline,” Beck said yesterday after hundreds of officers withdrew without moving in on the camp. The chief said he wanted to make sure the removal is done when it is safe for protesters and officers and “with as little drama as possible.”

Protesters chanted “we won, we won” as riot-clad officers left the scene. “Still occupied,” read the sign of a protester up in a tree.

“I’m pretty much speechless,” said Clark Davis, media co-ordinator for Occupy L.A.

Police turned back after hundreds of Occupy L.A. supporters showed up at the camp Sunday night as the midnight deadline for evacuation neared. As the night drew on, many demonstrators left.

Protester Julie Levine said she was surprised that police did not move in as the numbers dwindled. “We were fearful,” she said. “But we held our numbers and police were on their best behaviour.”

A celebratory atmosphere filled the night with protesters milling about the park and streets by city hall in seeming good spirits. A group on bicycles circled the block, one of them in a cow suit. Organizers led chants with a bullhorn.

Officers reopened the streets at around 6:30 a.m.

“Let’s go get breakfast,” Cmdr. Andrew Smith said as he removed his helmet.

The protest was largely peaceful but there were some skirmishes. Four people were arrested for failure to disperse and a few protesters tossed bamboo sticks and water bottles at officers, Smith said. No injuries were reported.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Court appeal

- A hearing was scheduled for yesterday on a petition for an injunction to prevent the Los Angeles camp closure.

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Philadelphia occupiers hold their ground

In Philadelphia, a deadline set by the city for Occupy Wall Street protesters to leave the site where they have camped for nearly two months passed Sunday without any arrests.

Dozens of tents remained at the encampment outside city hall after a city-imposed deadline passed for the protesters to move to make way for a construction project.

Along the steps leading into a Philadelphia plaza, about 50 people sat in lines promising that they would not leave unless they were carried out by authorities. For a time, they linked arms. But when it seemed that a forceful ouster was not imminent, they relaxed a bit.

A few dozen tents remained scattered on the plaza, along with trash, piles of dirty blankets and numerous signs reading, “You can’t evict an idea.”

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Robert Drayton uses his smartphone on “Cyber Monday” to help find gifts and compare prices at Toys R Us in New York.

SETH WENIG/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEXT UP: CYBER MONDAY

U.S. SHOPPERS ‘OCCUPY’ ONLINE SALES

American shoppers seem to be just as enthusiastic about shopping on their computers and smartphones on Cyber Monday as they were about finding deals over the Black Friday weekend.

Online sales on Cyber Monday, which was started in 2005 by a retail trade group to encourage Americans to shop online the Monday after Thanksgiving, were up in the early afternoon by 20 per cent from a year ago, IBM Benchmark reports. At department stores, online sales were up 39 per cent, while they were up 24 per cent at apparel stores. Meanwhile, sales from mobile devices were up 8.5 per cent. The group did not give dollar amounts.

A record 226 million American shoppers visited stores and websites during the four-day U.S. Thanksgiving holiday, up from 212 million last year, according to the U.S. National Retail Federation. And sales on Black Friday, the day after Thanksgiving, rose seven per cent to $11.4 billion US, the largest amount ever spent, according to ShopperTrak, which gathers store data.

The numbers point to Americans’ growing comfort with using their personal computers, tablet computers and smartphones to shop and retailers’ efforts to capitalize on that.

Over the years, big chains like Wal-Mart Stores Inc., the world’s largest retailer, have been offering earlier promotions, hourly deals and free shipping to get consumers to spend online on the Monday after Thanksgiving.

The moves have worked. Last year, Cyber Monday sales topped $1 billion for the first time, making it the heaviest day of online spending ever. During this week’s Cyber Monday, the NRF says nearly 80 per cent of retailers planned to offer special promotions.

And a record 122.9 million Americans were expected to shop on the day, up from 106.9 million who shopped on Cyber Monday last year, according to a survey conducted for Shop.org.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

Security staff should be monitored for racism: Report

National security agencies should collect race-based and other statistics about their operations in order to track whether they discriminate on the basis of characteristics like race, disability, religious or ethnic origin, says the Canadian Human Rights Commission.

A special report to parliament by the federal commission calls for mandatory transparency and accountability from the dozen or so agencies that do the bulk of national-security work. At a minimum, it says, the RCMP and CSIS should be compelled to do so. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Swastikas and 'KKK' painted on vehicles

Someone is spray-painting offensive and racist slurs all over vehicles in southwestern Ontario's Elgin County.

Provincial police say bright yellow spray paint was used to mark three vehicles this weekend. In one instance, a vehicle was marked with yellow swastikas and the letters "KKK." THE CANADIAN PRESS

Plant-eating dinosaur existed

A 66-million-year-old partial skeleton discovered in Saskatchewan has been confirmed as a new species of plant-eating dinosaur. The new species has been named Thescelosaurus after Saskatchewan's Assiniboia district, where it was found.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

Colonial racism on display

Exhibit's curator and former soccer player has suffered racist insults himself, on and off the field

REMY DE LA MAUVINIERE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Former French international soccer player Lilian Thuram answers a reporter on the eve of the opening of a new exhibition at the Quai Branly museum in Paris yesterday.

It's a queasy experience, viewing chained tribal dancers do a white man's bidding, or African women stripped and photographed to feed European curiosity.

Until just a few generations ago, this is how most white people learned about those with skin of a different shade. A new Paris exhibit examines how for centuries, colonizers plucked villagers from Africa, the Americas or the South Pacific and put them on display half a world away. The demeaning tradition shaped racist attitudes that linger today.

Curator Lilian Thuram, a former soccer star and now an anti-racism advocate, hopes the exhibit at the Quai Branly Museum in Paris makes people question deep-held beliefs about the "other."

"You have to have the courage to say that each of us has prejudices, and these prejudices have a history," he said.

It's a delicate undertaking for a museum: exhibiting offensive images without glorifying them, urging visitors to look closer and be repulsed.
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Offensive images

- Many of the subjects of this colonial cruelty remain nameless, and forgotten to history. "Zulu Mealtime," one photo reads. "Bushmen." "Indian Chief." "Negro Head."
- An old film reel shows a Frenchman barking commands at two dark-skinned dancers in headdresses so cumbersome, their faces are barely visible.
- But some have been identified, including the great-grandparents of Thuram's 1998 World Cup teammate Christian Karembeu, shipped to Paris from the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia and exhibited as "cannibals."
- Just when you think the exhibit is all about the past, a familiar venue jumps out: New York's Coney Island features in an old "freak show" poster.

Chisholm hopeful that NDP can hold its ground

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Chisholm

NDP leadership hopeful Robert Chisholm believes he's uniquely placed to ensure New Democrats don't squander their unprecedented breakthrough in last May's federal election.

As a former leader of the NDP in Nova Scotia, he's the only one of nine federal leadership candidates who has direct experience riding the electoral roller coaster.

He says he's learned some valuable lessons from that experience that could help the federal party navigate its way from official Opposition to government.

"My experience in Nova Scotia, I know that these kinds of breakthroughs are really exciting, but you've got to pay attention because it can be as fleeting as it comes fast," Chisholm said in an interview.

Under Chisholm's leadership, the Nova Scotia NDP vaulted from two to a record 19 seats in 1998, actually tied with the Liberals, who formed a minority government propped up by the third-place Progressive Conservatives. Chisholm acknowledged that the NDP "largely was identified as Jack Layton's party." But he advised New Democrats to remember they've got plenty of time before the next election to recoup lost ground.
THE CANADIAN PRESS

RICK MERCER REPORT
Tonight, Rick joins the Celebrity Clowns at the 106th annual Toronto Santa Claus Parade.
Tonight at 8/8:30NT
followed by 22 Minutes and
Michael: Tuesdays and Thursdays
cbc.ca/mercerreport
CBC

Woman wants bully out of school

A nine-year-old Ottawa girl who allegedly brought a knife to school and threatened to kill other students has been suspended "indefinitely," says a victim's mom who is launching a petition to keep her out of the school permanently.

"I've been told that if she does come back, and there's a good chance she won't, it's not going to be for awhile," said Angelle Bow.

As for her petition to keep the bully out of school, she said she is concerned it may harm the girl, but she is thinking about the other students at the school first.

"I certainly can't say I don't care how it's affecting her, because that would be inhumane," she said.

Tracy Vaillancourt, Canada Research Chair in Children's Mental Health and Violence Prevention at the University of Ottawa, said there are treatment options for children who bully.

"She certainly wouldn't be out there without anything to help her," Vaillancourt said, adding students bully for all kinds of reasons.

JESSICA SMITH IN OTTAWA

Dad accused of honour killings sheds tears at trial

Extensive toxicology tests done on bodies of three sisters, relative

A father accused of murdering his three daughters and first wife to preserve the Muslim family's honour convulsed in quiet sobs yesterday as autopsy photographs were shown in court.

It was a rare sign of emotion for Mohammad Shafia, who earlier in the proceeding smiled and chatted amiably with his lawyer.

The Shafia's co-accused wife and mother of the girls, Tooba Mohammad Yahya, was allowed to leave court before the testimony, in which a forensic pathologist said the females drowned and showed no signs that they had taken or been administered any drugs or alcohol.

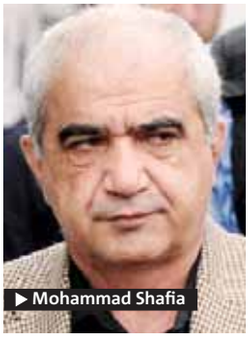
Before the slides were shown, Crown lawyer Gerard Laarhuis warned they could be distressing.

"These are graphic photographs," Laarhuis said. "People need to be prepared to see them."

Shafia's son, Hamed, who is also accused of first-degree murder in the deaths of his sisters, rubbed his eyes as the slides showing the dead women were put up on large screens in Ontario Superior court.

Bodies of the sisters, Geeti, 13, Sahar, 17, and Zainab, 19, were retrieved from a submerged car in a Kingston, Ont. canal in June 2009, along with their father's first wife Rona Amir Mohammad.

THE CANADIAN PRESS


▶ Mohammad Shafia

Bruising

- Three of the four victims did show mysterious minor or moderate bruising to the top or side of the heads.
- But Dr. Christopher Milroy was unable to say what caused the bleeding.
- Nor could he say whether the blows that caused them could have rendered the victims unconscious.

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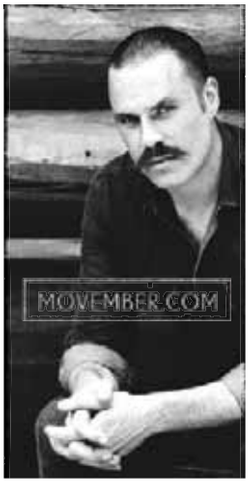

Canada's economy still at risk: OECD

- Harsher fate for countries if Europe's mess spreads
- Domestic confidence down, export sector limited

Europe's debt problems and the global slowdown have weakened Canada's economy and pose even graver risks going forward, warns the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development.

The OECD said yesterday that Canada is currently going through a rough patch of weak growth because of the deteriorating external environment.

The OECD expects Canada's economy to muddle through and post a soft 1.9 per cent advance next year, followed by a stronger 2.5 per cent expansion in 2013, but all bets are off if the European debt crisis spreads beyond the continent.

"Prospects only improve if decisive action is taken quickly," said chief economist Pier Carlo Padoan.

While most of the risks stem from Europe, Canada is not totally blameless, the OECD says, citing "high levels of household indebtedness (that) are eroding consumer confidence."

The International Monetary Fund and the Economist magazine have flagged record levels of household indebtedness as risks to the Canadian economy. Household debt is at about 150 per cent of disposable income, an all-time high.

Still, Canada's economic expansion over the next two years will vie with the U.S. for tops in the G7 — which also includes euro-zone members Italy, France and Germany.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. YESTERDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 178.15 (11,640.21)	+ 1.29¢ (96.58¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas** $3.364 (- 17.8¢)
+ 1.44¢ US ($98.21 US)	**Gold** $1,710.80 (+ $25.10)

Smarter. Car

▶ Toyota Motor Corp. unveiled futuristic concept car Fun-Vii yesterday at the upcoming Tokyo auto show, which opens to the public this weekend.

KOJI SASAHARA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Tweet at the touch of a car door

Resembling a giant smartphone, the car works like a personal computer and allows drivers to connect with others with a tap of a touch-panel door.

12 days of expenses

The price of partridges, pear trees and turtle doves has spiked, pushing the cost of every items mentioned in the carol, The Twelve Days of Christmas, above $100,000 for the first time.

The 364 items repeated across the verses would cost $101,119, an increase of 4.4 per cent over last year, according to the annual Christmas Price Index compiled by PNC Wealth Management. The broader government Consumer Price Index increased by 3.9 per cent over the same period.

Those with the money to spend would end up with 12 drummers drumming, 22 pipers piping, 30 lords-a-leaping, 36 ladies dancing, 40 maids-a-milking, 42 swans-a-swimming, 42 geese-a-laying, 40 gold rings, 36 calling birds, 30 French hens, 22 turtle doves, and 12 partridges in pear trees (excluding bird maintenance). Buying just one set of each verse in the song will cost $24,263 this year — a moderate 3.5 per cent rise. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Ex-teen singer sensation talks tabloid torment

She was just 13 when Rupert Murdoch asked her to sing at his wedding.

Charlotte Church was given a choice: a 100,000-pound fee or a chance to generate goodwill with the media magnate by performing for free. She wanted the cash, but her record company and manager said no, it was better to make friends with Murdoch, head of a global news and entertainment empire.

"Despite my teenage business head screaming 'Think how many tamagotchies you could buy!' I was pressured into taking the latter option," she told Britain's press ethics committee. "This strategy failed ... for me."

Church, 25, told Britain's media ethics inquiry yesterday that the Murdoch press, and other British tabloids, had ruthlessly tormented her since she was a child singing sensation, blowing her credibility "to bits" and badly damaging her career.

JOEL RYAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ British singer Charlotte Church arrives at an awards ceremony in London on Oct. 25, 2010.

She said press intrusion had a devastating impact on her family life and particularly on her mother. Church said her mother had tried to kill herself in part because she knew a newspaper was planning to expose her husband's extramarital affair.

The former teenage singer told the inquiry how cameramen tried to take photos up her skirt and down her blouse and published "intimate" details about her sex life when she was just 17.

Church is the latest prominent person to tell the committee how Britain's unscrupulous press has invaded their privacy and damaged their lives.

Prime Minister David Cameron set up the inquiry in response to the scandal that began with illegal eavesdropping by the News of the World tabloid.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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GIVING UP ON HIGHRISE LIVING

SHE SAYS ...

JESSICA NAPIER
METRO

Last weekend I moved — an entirely frustrating and time-consuming ordeal that we all go through at least a few times in our lives. After 16 months in a cookie-cutter condo building, I left my highrise rental for something entirely different.

I found a newly finished basement apartment in a beautiful Victorian house on a wide leafy street a mere 15-minute walk away from my old address. And even though my postal code remains the same, my new place feels a world away from the glass and concrete wasteland I once called home.

Back on street-level (well, I guess technically I'm below it) there is a whole world I had forgotten about, a diverse neighbourhood where people manicure their lawns and next door's cat prowls by your window.

Subterranean living has its deficits for sure — natural sunlight is at a minimum and cellphone reception is spotty at best. Taking out the garbage has become a real chore rather than something I could send down a magical "someone else's problem" chute.

"I never anticipated that a basement would feel less claustrophobic than a brand new apartment, and, yet, your rental dollars go a lot further when you invest them underground. Despite the low ceilings, the space feels vast in comparison to my 500-square-foot cube."

And, yes, the view leaves a lot to be desired (the view is dirt; it's a basement, remember). But you know what? The lookout on the 21st floor had its problems too. It was unnerving how easy it was to peer into the private goings on of the residents in the adjacent condo development. After a while it started feeling a little bit too much like Rear Window for my liking.

I never anticipated that a basement would feel less claustrophobic than a brand new apartment, and, yet, your rental dollars go a lot further when you invest them underground. Despite the low ceilings, the space feels vast in comparison to my 500-square-foot cube. I'm no longer tripping over my furniture and I can actually have more than two guests over for dinner; I just can't invite anyone over six-foot-six.

I'm sure the novelty will wear off eventually, but for now living in a brick-and-mortar-home again is oh so charming. I'm comforted by the ambient noise of the furnace and footsteps overhead. Rather than suffocating on recirculated condo air, I wake up in the morning to a refreshing chill of a real house.

Downtown space is at a premium and building upwards is the obvious solution for overcrowded cities. But while vertical living is an unavoidable reality, I'm not sure that people are meant to live 20-something floors up in the air. There's just something much more human about being back down to earth.

Read more of Jessica Napier's columns at metronews.ca/shesays

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

Did you win your Grey Cup bet?

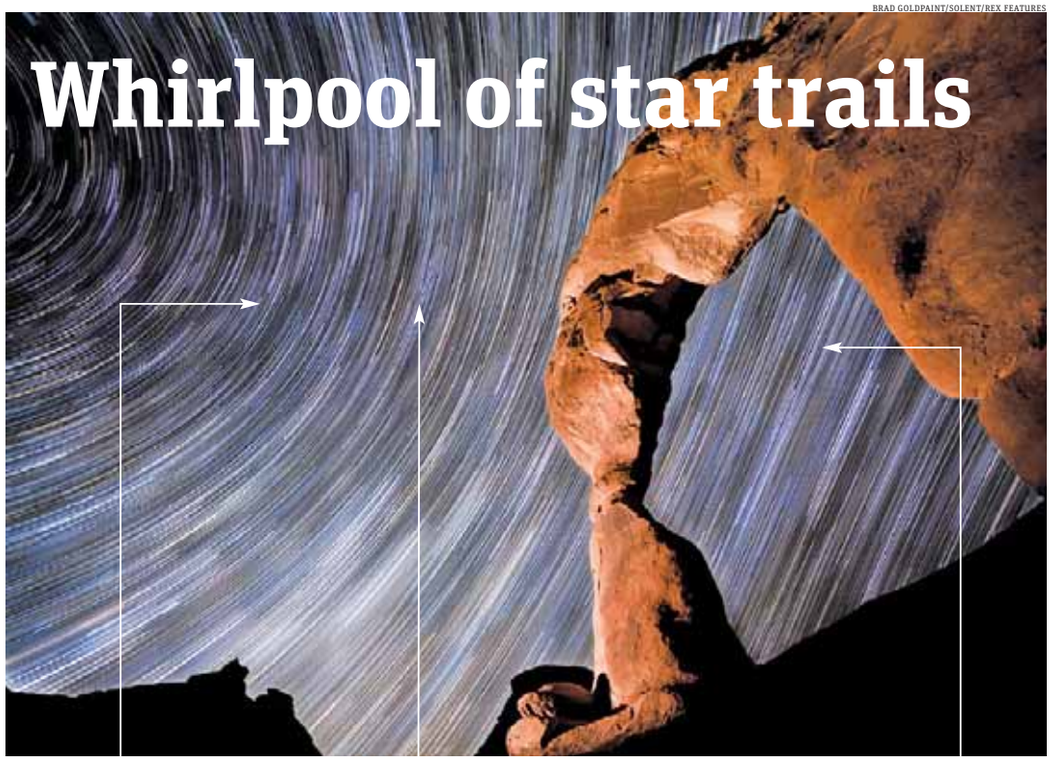
67% YES! I KNEW THE LIONS WOULD COME THROUGH

33% NO. THE BOMBERS LET ME DOWN

Local tweets

- **@kevinjmeyers:** Leaving #yvr soon and another #greycup trip in the books. My liver hurts.
- **@CortneyMcC:** Remember when the #BCLions won the 2011 #GreyCup? Ohhh yeahh!
- **@cdeliss:** Really enjoyed watching the #bclions win the #greycup last night! Even thought I felt like I was cheating on hockey. #stillinlove
- **@TylerJacobson27:** Befriended @dutchysc last night after the #GreyCup. Chatted away about BC and their silly cigarettes that smell like skunks.
- **@cmorand12:** Did the BC Lions REALLY win the Grey Cup? Abso-Lulay. #greycup #cfl
- **@RobertParizek:** Still slow starting after yesterday's amazing #GREYCUP game. Little to no voice & feeling drained of Energon. Need food & coffee ASAP!
- **@JonnyPicture:** Either everyone is still in bed hungover or people have already forgotten about the #BCLions #GreyCup win

BRAD GOLDPAINT/SOLENT/REX FEATURES



Whirlpool of star trails

Camera snaps starry beauty

THOMPSON, UTAH. The slow motion of a wild, starry night was captured in a single frame by photographer Brad Goldpaint, who shot this image from a 305-metre shear drop in Arches National Park. Brad trekked 2,092 kilometres across the States, snapping landscapes to capture "inspirational elements within the natural world." MWN

"I want to illustrate the unknown and put it together with earthly landscapes."
BRAD GOLDPAINT, PHOTOGRAPHER

Snap a 'star trail'

- **Use a sturdy tripod.** Any movement will put "squiggles" in your trails.
- **Use a wide-angle lens.** The 35mm equivalent of 20-50mm focal length is good.
- **Open the shutter.** Leave it open as long as possible. Longer exposures mean longer star trails.
- **Choice of camera.** "Nikon. I shoot in a raw-image format."

They call these lines 'star trails'

PHOTOGRAPHY. Hallucinatory, spell-binding — perhaps nauseating? These are star trails, a feature specific to astrophotography. They are lines of light made using time-lapse photography: stars recorded as the Earth rotates over time by a camera with an open shutter to produce these stunning circular lines. MWN

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Battle of the box sets

- Do you have a music geek in your house? Check out some of these epic box sets
- These collections dig deep to satisfy the hunger of the most rabid fans

U2: Achtung Baby Super Deluxe Edition Box Set

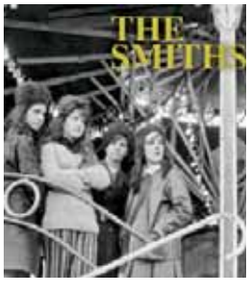
Longevity in the music business can be traced to a pivotal moment in an artist's career, and for U2, that milestone was Achtung Baby. The 1991 album represented U2 2.0, the point where the band reinvented itself. Now fans can experience the making of the classic recording with a box set that includes nearly as many discs as album releases. The album that spawned such classics as One and Mysterious Ways was recorded in Berlin during a tumultuous period for the band. After experiencing the mega-success of The Joshua Tree and the concert film Rattle and Hum, the band was at a crossroads. So they broke away from their families to find their sound in a distant land. After a great deal of tension, they found what they were looking for with One, and the rest fell into place. Not only were they able to churn out the remainder of the album, but they also recorded the follow-up, Zooropa. The collection consists of six compact discs and four DVDs, including the documentary, From the Sky Down, and a Zoo TV special. Other goodies include a hardcover book and 16 art prints. There's a scaled-down two-disc set that includes 14 additional tracks, and an uber-deluxe version that includes a set of collectible vinyl singles, a magnetic puzzle tiled box, and a pair of Bono's trademark Fly sunglasses.

Nirvana: Nevermind Super Deluxe Edition

Working through the hours of material on this 20th anniversary celebration of Nirvana's Nevermind is an unexpectedly melancholy experience. When Nevermind hit the street in 1991, destroying hair metal in just a few bars of Smells Like Teen Spirit, it reshaped not just rock music but pop and punk and America. Listening to the various versions of Nevermind in this edition, one of two commemorative releases, reminds us that no one's really come close to carrying the standard in the years after Nirvana's fiery flare across the night sky. The super deluxe version is both fascinatingly deep and needlessly so at the same time. There are four discs with 69 cuts that include a remastered version of the original album, various B-sides, live cuts and unreleased versions and even a few early boom box proto-recordings that provide a glimpse at the evolution of Nirvana's biggest hits. There's also a book that includes photos and other artifacts from the period. The highlight of the super deluxe edition is the Nirvana: Live at the Paramount DVD of the band's Oct. 31, 1991, concert in Seattle. Things were just starting to blow up and the band is young and powerful.

The Smiths: The Smiths Complete

This is a swank box set, in both CD and vinyl, containing all four studio albums released in an astounding flurry between 1984 and 1987 and four more discs of live bits and odds and ends. Morrissey's sweetly crooned rancour and cutting indignation remain a soothing balm years later, and Johnny Marr's diamond-lattice guitar work is still every bit as engaging as it was in the mid-1980s, despite all the copycats and pretenders over the years. These albums were grenades lobbed at the establishment at the time and should find fresh ears in the 21st century. Morrissey and his mates were reacting to the growing elitism of the wealthy and the many inequalities of modern society. Many of the same themes have re-emerged 25 years later in the age of Occupy Wall Street. The Smiths have aged very well. The Queen is Dead and Vicar in a Tutu remain vibrant and alive, the sneer still fresh on the lips. There is a Light That Never Goes Out and I Want the One I Can't Have remain just as heartbreakingly sad. And songs like How Soon is Now and London still rock with an unexpected ferocity. The one disappointment is the light liner notes.



Pink Floyd: The Dark Side of the Moon Immersion

Regarded as one of the most important albums in pop thanks to its unprecedented life on the charts and timeless sound, it should come as no surprise the iconic album The Dark Side of the Moon gets the box set treatment. The Immersion Collection, as it's called, consists of six discs centred on the album, and lots of collectibles, including a 40-page booklet, marbles, drink coasters, and a scarf. That's right, a scarf, complete with the album's trademark dispersive prism. While these items may be cool, the real value of this collection lies in the album's original mix, which up until now has never been released. Unlike alternate takes that seem to pervade these types of collections, the early mix of this album stands on its own merit. Presented in its entirety, it provides a different perspective of the version of the album burned into our minds over the past 37 years. Dark Side seemed to culminate the experimental soundscape of the band's seven previous albums with the right blend of mainstream appeal. So this cut serves as the step before their masterpiece was complete.

Billy Joel: The Complete Albums Collection

We live in a fragmentary culture. How odd, then, to be able to listen to the entire arc of a singer-songwriter's artistic life in one package — and see, as close as is possible in art, the complete picture of who someone has been. So it goes with Billy Joel: The Complete Albums Collection — a 15-CD (15!) collection that takes the Joel oeuvre from the dawn of the 1970s into the 21st century. From Piano Man to Just the Way You Are to Uptown Girl to We Didn't Start the Fire and beyond, it's quite a ride. In recent years, Joel-bashing has become a not-uncommon exercise. He's saccharine, people say. Hackneyed. Not too relevant. Syrupy. That's unfair. Joel is one of the premier pop songwriters of his generation, and even his more uneven efforts are generally good listening. If you can — and it's a lot to ask, true — take the time to listen straight through to the more than 11 hours of music in these albums. Taken together, it's an epic portrait of an era and how it unfolded, in New York City and beyond.

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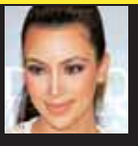
2 scene

Scene in brief



Justin Bieber is the king of the web in the U.S. but gets less love from his home country, according to year-end search results from Bing.com. According to Microsoft's search engine, Bieber was the top searched person in the United States in 2011 but barely cracked the Top 10 list in Canada at No. 9. The top searched celebrity in Canada was Kim Kardashian, while she was second in the U.S. Most of the same names made both lists — including Lindsay Lohan, Britney Spears, Jennifer Aniston, Jennifer Lopez, Lady Gaga and Megan Fox — although Kanye West made the Top 10 in Canada and Miley Cyrus was popular in the U.S. The royal wedding of Prince William and Kate Middleton was the top searched news event of the year in Canada.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Scan this code for the top searches on Bing.ca in 2011.

Bob Miley or Lyin' Miley?

Cyrus retracts her self-incriminating statement about being a stoner

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

Hannah Bongtana, it's time to come clean.

After it surfaced over the weekend via The Daily that Miley Cyrus was presented with a Bob Marley-shaped cake at her 19th birthday party at the Roosevelt Hotel in L.A. and quipped, "You know you're a stoner when friends make you a Bob Marley cake — you know you smoke way too much f--in' weed," she is now retracting it, saying the video was all a "joke."

Her rep tells TMZ that Miley was joking about the cake and that the Bob Marley reference was because her friend Kelly Osbourne has been calling her Bob Miley since she saw a video of her ripping a huge bong hit last year.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

▶ Miley Cyrus

Cyrus then claimed that it was salvia, a harmless herb, and not marijuana in the bong.

Cyrus's rep says that Miley is not a pothead.

Pfft. Right.

Because non-stoners are known for their love of all things Bob Marley.

My 74-year-old Republican mother has a giant Marley tapestry hanging in her living room because it matches her sofa.

Charlize the ugly duckling?

Speaking of people totally lying, Charlize Theron, who is now on the circuit promoting her new film Young Adult, is trying to make us believe that she wasn't beautiful nor popular in high school (how many "pffts" can I fit into one column?).

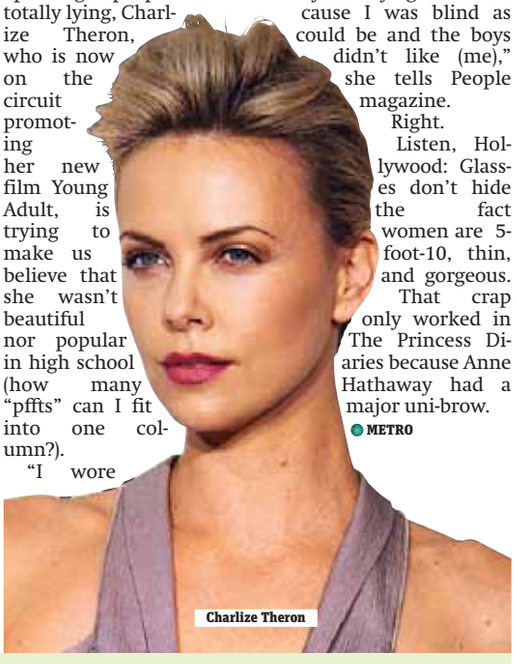
"I wore really nerdy glasses because I was blind as could be and the boys didn't like (me)," she tells People magazine.

Right.

Listen, Hollywood: Glasses don't hide the fact women are 5-foot-10, thin, and gorgeous.

That crap only worked in The Princess Diaries because Anne Hathaway had a major uni-brow.

METRO



Charlize Theron

Angelina Jolie, funeral director?

Angelina Jolie says the woman all the tabloids write about isn't her.

"I don't see those things. I don't know who they are but I assume they're not me. They're not who I am. They're not what I spend my day caring about. I find them quite shallow and often quite wrong," she says tells 60 Minutes.

Jolie also reveals that aside from acting, she was interested at one point in becoming a funeral director. "It sounds like this very strange, eccentric, dark thing to do," she says. "If this whole acting thing didn't work out that was going to be my path."

METRO

▶ Angelina Jolie

Celebrity tweets

@Oprah

Think this mom with the girls in pageants is fulfilling "her" dream, not her daughters.

@rickygervais

Is there anything more boring and pointless than tweeting about someone's typos or syntax on twitter? It's f---ing TWITTER for Christ sake.

@MissKellyO

Taking my papa grocery shopping!

@ConanOBrien

Scotch looks delicious, but then you take one sip and it tastes like a leather furniture store that's on fire.

Pippa scores book deal

Royal sister-in-law Pippa Middleton has secured a nearly $600,000 advance to write a party planning book, according to the Mail on Sunday.

An auction for the socialite's project had reportedly been going on for weeks, with publisher Michael Joseph, an imprint of Penguin, coming out on top.

"It will be about entertaining and how to throw the perfect party," a source says.

"It's not just about being the perfect hostess — it will also include recipes and information about how to host different types of events."

The book, which Middleton is reportedly writing without the help of a ghostwriter, is due out in time for the 2012 holiday season.

METRO

Get healthy, get a dog

A new study shows that dog owners stay more active than their counterparts during the winter Lead author suggests they can have positive effects beyond just increased activity

CELIA MILNE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

ISTOCK PHOTOS

A recent study once again proves what we all know — dog owners are better people.

Not rain, not ice, not snow, not sleet can keep your doggie off his feet. People who own dogs benefit health-wise from their pet's need to go for walks all year long. A recent study at the University of Calgary found that having a dog keeps owners active and walking, even in horrendous weather.

This is significant because a large percentage of Canadians — 64 per cent — are inactive during the winter. Who can blame them? In Calgary, in the dead of winter, sunset occurs less than eight hours after sunrise and the mean temperature ranges from -8.5 to 1.5 degrees C, say the authors. There's nothing like a pair of big brown, begging eyes and some adorable furry eyebrows to get you to don your mitts, hat, boots and parka, and get outside.

"By acting as cues for physical activity, dogs may help their owners remain active across seasons," says Parabhdeep Lail, lead author of the study and a medical student at the University of Calgary.

He and colleagues studied the walking habits of 428 Calgarians in both summer and winter. In the group, there were 115 dog owners. The dog owners were at least three times more likely than non-owners to be consistent about walking in their neighbourhoods for recreation, the study found.

"This can have a positive effect on others in the community," reported Lail.

Seeing neighbours outdoors walking their dogs encourages non-owners to get out and walk and makes people feel safer in their communities.

Lail and his colleagues suggest that dog-friendly neighbourhoods — including housing that allows dogs and parks that support dogs — may assist in enhancing population health by promoting physical activity.

In winter

Physical activity can help prevent some chronic diseases.

Get active Physical activity tends to wane in wintertime, says Parabhdeep Lail, a medical student at the University of Calgary. Owning a dog may be a good antidote to winter inertia, he says. People generally know that participation in regular physical activity is important for the prevention of many chronic diseases, including type 2 diabetes, hypertension, cardiovascular disease, obesity, osteoporosis, some cancers, irritable bowel syndrome, dementia and depression.

3 life

A new study shows

Cupcakes are as addictive as cocaine

Processed, sugary foods are as addictive as cocaine or nicotine, say scientists from Yale University. When binge eaters were shown images of food, the decision making part of their brain experienced a surge dopamine in the same way an addict would respond to seeing drugs.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Canada's health-spending has 'mixed results' compared to other countries: CIHI

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Get festive, German style

Sample meaty dishes, festive drinks & more at annual Christmas market

LUNCH RUSH

ERIN IRELAND
FOOD@METRONEWS.CA

Some believe Christmas buzz begins too early. I say that's impossible. Why not maximize the most cosy, festive, joyous, wonderful time of the year?

With its twinkling pine branches and rows of decorated wooden huts, Vancouver's annual Christmas market gives nuts like me a chance to dive into the spirit as early as November.

ERIN IRELAND

▶ Classic Baked Apple ($5.50), Schupfnudeln with Bacon and Sauerkraut ($9.50) and Cinnamon Apple Spice ($4).

Vancouver Christmas Market
Queen Elizabeth Theatre Plaza
604-924-4506
vancouverchristmasmarket.com
Price: $5 - $12
Rating: 4 out of 5

If you head over to downtown's holiday haven, you'll find German bratwurst, Bavarian Leberkaes (meatloaf), Swiss Raclette and more.

My diverse lunch began at Das Deutsche Nudel Haus with Schupfnudeln — a dense hand-rolled German noodle with a gnocchi-like texture. Fried in a pan with sauerkraut and bacon, this filling entrée will satisfy any salt and sour loving palette.

For dessert, try a baked apple, from Das Apfelhaus, filled with sugary walnuts and raisins. A warm drizzle of creamy vanilla sauce is a perfect finish. Unless a tiny mug of mulled wine ($4) satisfies you, I'd go for a cup of drinking chocolate.

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Easy swiss fondue

Preparation:

1. In bowl, toss grated cheeses with cornstarch to coat. Rub inside of fondue pot with split garlic clove. In heavy-bottomed saucepan, heat wine to just below boiling point over medium heat. Whisk in cheeses in small amounts, adding more as cheese melts. Stir in Kirsch to make a smooth sauce.
2. Place fondue pot over fondue burner, pour in cheese mix and adjust heat so cheese keeps warm, but does not bubble. Use long-handled forks to dip bread cubes.

Ingredients:

- 250 g (8 oz) Gruyere, Emmental and Appenzeller cheeses, shredded
- 7 ml (1 1/2 tsp) cornstarch
- 1 garlic clove, split in half
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) white wine
- 30 ml (2 tbsp) Kirsch (optional)
- 1 baguette, cut into cubes

THE CANADIAN PRESS/ JANE RODMELL, ALL THE BEST FINE FOODS

The effect of loneliness

A new study published in the American Academy of Sleep Medicine suggests that how lonely you are impacts how well you sleep ◐ We take one step further and find out other adverse effects loneliness can have on your life

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ROMINA McGUINNESS
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METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

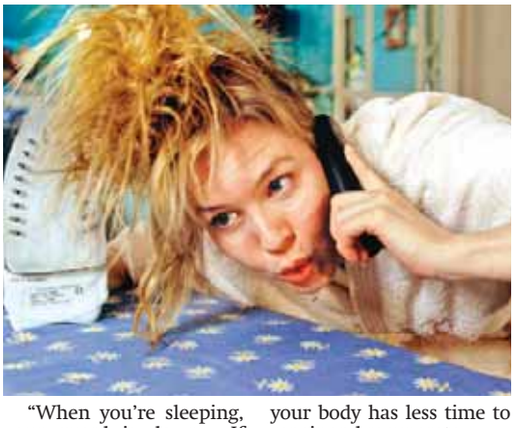
John Cacioppo, an expert in the biological effects of loneliness, wants people to know that feeling lonely has nothing to do with being alone. You can suffer from loneliness yet be surrounded by people, if you feel as if you have no one you can trust or confide in.

"It's the subjective experience of loneliness that is harmful, not the actual number of social contacts a person has," he says.

When loneliness develops into a chronic condition, it becomes a risk to both mental and physical health.

You'll sleep like a baby, literally

Loneliness causes sleep to become fragmented.



"When you're sleeping, your guard is down. If you're lonely your brain will subconsciously know there's no one out there to protect you and this insecurity is what causes you to fret," explains Lianne Kurina, assistant professor of epidemiology at the University of Chicago.

Fatigue takes over as your body has less time to repair and recuperate.

You'll get comfort from cupcakes, not company

Lonely people seek sources of pleasure that aren't affiliated with others. Their body craves, and abuses, pleasurable substances such as fatty or sugary foods and alcohol. In a way, it's a form of self-medication, as these provide a superficial, short term high and make up for the lack of dopamine present in their system.

"Lonely people cave in so easily because as their brain is already on the look out for so many threats, it becomes less well tuned to controlling," explains Cacioppo.

You'll be more prone to catching the flu

We are genetically designed to adapt to loneliness. We become more vulnerable to viruses as our body focuses on fighting bacteria.

"Viruses are affiliated with human contact (sneezing, saliva) but if you're lonely your brains identifies physical contact as non existent or hostile so drives all your energy into healing cuts or abrasions," says Cacioppo.

When your kids are full of gimmes

Getting teens to give back ain't easy

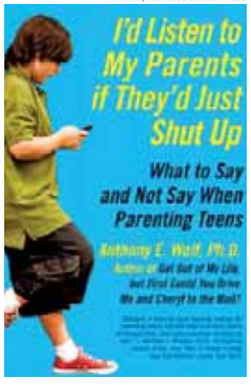
As the daughter of a minister, Jennifer James travelled frequently while her family served the less fortunate, from the rural heartland to the inner city. A lot of the time, she went without as a kid.

"My earliest memories are of working among the homeless in downtown Los Angeles, dipping ice cream for drunks," she said. "I learned a lot and I was a better person for it, but there was a lot of pain along the way."

In her zeal to spare her own three kids, the 44-year-old mom in Oklahoma City, Okla., has given them a world she didn't know — braces on their teeth, fancy computers and private schooling.

"Pretty soon it's like the kids just expect it and think you're giving so much because they're just that fantastic and not because you're making sacrifices," James said. "They have no paradigm for sacrifice. Now I'm trying to wind the skein of yarn back up and it's not easy."

HARPER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Call it entitled child syndrome, the chronic gimmes or just plain spoiled. The lament is a familiar one for many well-meaning parents year round but intensifies at the holidays, especially among older kids who crank up gift demands but can't be coaxed to give back. It could be your reluctant volunteer hasn't found the right cause, said dad David Levinson, founder of the Los Angeles community service organization Big Sunday (Bigsunday.org).

"Everyone, even the youngest kids, has something that speaks to them, whether it's homelessness, literacy, the environment, seniors, veterans, AIDS, animals, children," he said.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Holiday spirit

Can you force a teen to volunteer for a good cause?

- "If you persist there's a reasonable chance that they might actually do it, but there also is a chance that they won't," says Anthony Wolf, a psychologist and author of I'd Listen To My Parents If They'd Just Shut up.
- "Whether they do or don't participate," he said, "the big picture is: 'What I really care about is that they basically become a good person.'"

'Tis the season for resourcefulness

FUN AND FRUGAL

LESLEY SCORGIE
MONEY@METRONEWS.CA

Being resourceful throughout the holidays saves you money and reduces waste.

For example, going all out on wrapping paper and bows kills trees and costs a few dollars per present. Why not reuse gift bags you've accumulated throughout the year?

Or, if you've prepared baked goods, give them out in reusable (and returnable) Tupperware rather than in disposable plastic baggies.

Check your jacket pockets, purses, in between the couch cushions and in junk drawers for coins or bills.

Saving money throughout the holidays isn't the same as being a cheapskate. Both your bank account and the environment benefit from your resourcefulness.

ISTOCK

▶ Don't start the New Year with a financial hangover from December.

Do you have partially used gift cards taking up space in your wallet? Have you cashed in all your Groupons?

Use up any leftover pennies, dollars and coupons toward gift purchases.

Next, check for re-gift opportunities. Did you get duplicate copies of your favourite book for your birthday?

Or did you win an iPod at work that you don't need because your existing one is perfectly fine?

Don't be embarrassed by re-gifting. If you can't use something, give it away. Otherwise it'll go to waste and collect dust.

What loyalty programs do you belong to? Air Miles, Aeroplan, credit card rewards, grocery store points?

Depending on your loyalty program you could cash in your points for gifts such as electronics or travel.

If you're of the mindset that you should keep saving up your points for a massive trip in a few years from now, think again.

The longer you wait to redeem points, the more likely it is the point system will change and adjust to the increasing cost of providing the rewards.

Thus, your points become less 'rewarding' over time. Take advantage of them this holiday season and save money!

Saving money throughout the holidays isn't the same as being a cheapskate.

Both your bank account and the environment benefit from your resourcefulness.

HOLIDAY OFFICE GIFTS: DON'T GO OVERBOARD

Now that the holiday season is fast approaching, I'm once again confused and, more importantly, stressed about office holiday gift giving. When to give, what to give and how much to spend. Stressed for the Holidays

CHARLES THE BUTLER

ASKCHARLES THEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA

FOR MORE, VISIT CHARLES MACPHERSON.COM

Dear Stressed for the Holidays,

The holidays are a stressful time for many people, so let's first try and take a little bit of the stress away.

Lets deal with the easy question: How much to spend?

First and foremost, you should only spend what you can afford. It is foolish to put yourself in debt just to buy someone a present. Anybody who would expect you to do that is not worth giving a present to, in my humble opinion.

Secondly, at the office, remember you technically never "give up" the ladder, so if your boss buys you something, you are not required to buy them something back. However, remember a good handwritten thank-you note will go a very long way!

And although I'm not one to push for office gifts, if everyone really wants to exchange presents, then a "Secret Santa," where you buy for one person, is just fine.

But remember to stick to the agreed-upon budget and more importantly remember to be tasteful in what you buy.

The entire office will see this and being the office clown is not always a good thing.

HAVE A QUESTION? EMAIL CHARLES AT ASKCHARLESTHEBUTLER@METRONEWS.CA.

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4 sports

Canucks preview

Blue Jackets at Canucks
7 p.m.
TV: SNET

Columbus (6-14-3) is showing signs of life after a rough start, with points in five of their last six games. A big reason is goalie Curtis Sanford, who is 3-1-2 in his past six starts.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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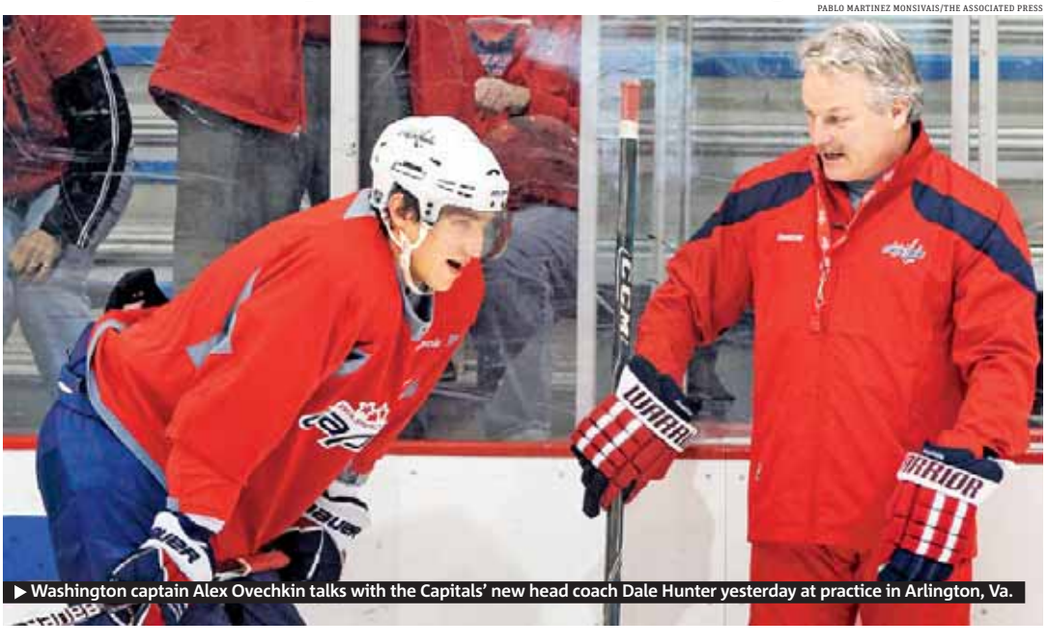
Shuffling the decks

Caps fire Boudreau, while Canes can Maurice on Black Monday for NHL coaches ◐ Hunter steps behind D.C. bench and Muller given Carolina job

PABLO MARTINEZ MONSIVAIS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ Washington captain Alex Ovechkin talks with the Capitals' new head coach Dale Hunter yesterday at practice in Arlington, Va.

Trouble was in the air at least a couple weeks before the axe came down on Bruce Boudreau and Paul Maurice.

With the Washington Capitals and Carolina Hurricanes losing more than they were winning, both men knew they were on thin ice before getting fired hours apart yesterday.

Boudreau and Maurice shared similar headaches.

The captains of both teams are struggling mightily. As of yesterday, Eric Staal of the Hurricanes was a league-worst minus-17 and on pace for his lowest point total since his rookie year. Washington's Alex Ovechkin, once the NHL's undisputed goal-scoring king, was tied for 38th in that category.

"This wasn't a slump. You can ride out slumps. This was simply a case of the players no longer responding to Bruce."
CAPITALS GM GEORGE MCPHEE ON FIRING COACH BRUCE BOUDREAU

The most telling sign of trouble was when both men started making bold moves. Boudreau feuded with Ovechkin this season and scratched veterans Joel Ward and Alex Semin, but Washington still lost six of eight. Maurice benched defenceman Tomas Kaberle on Sunday for a game Carolina lost 4-3 in Ottawa.

Boudreau had been under fire for a calendar year, dating back to a long slide last December and punctuated with a sweep by Tampa Bay in the second round of the playoffs. Washington named former Capital Dale Hunter as his replacement.

"I think Bruce came in here and emptied the tank," Capitals GM George McPhee said in Arlington, Va. "When that happens, you get a new coach where the tank is full and see if it makes a difference."

Maurice was in his second stint with the Hurricanes and was expected to help a team with modest talent overachieve. With the playoffs slipping from view, Carolina GM Jim Rutherford decided to see if Kirk Muller can get more out of the players than Maurice.

"We feel confident that he is the right man to lead our team now and in the future," said Rutherford.

Both Muller and Hunter will be NHL head coaches for the first time — Muller arrives from the AHL's Milwaukee Admirals and Hunter from the OHL's London Knights.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

JEFF VINNICK/GETTY IMAGES

▶ Wally Buono hoists the Grey Cup on Sunday.

Lions think Buono will walk away a champion

B.C. Lions players expect Wally Buono to relinquish his coaching duties but retain a management role after guiding the CFL club to a Grey Cup victory.

"I don't think he'll come back as coach, but I don't think he's just going to step away from football," said Lions defensive back Korey Banks yesterday at their practice facility.

Buono, who is currently general manager and coach, led the Lions to a championship Sunday in a 34-23 win over Winnipeg.

Players say Buono has not told them of his decision, but the CFL's all-time winningest coach will not come back with the sole purpose to win a sixth Grey Cup as head coach.

"You have to respect the game and you have to respect the tradition of Grey Cup, but if that's your motivation, I think that's very selfish," said Buono, a head coach for 22 seasons. "It's not about that. What I've got to decide on is what I think is best for the organization, but I've also gotta decide on what's best for me." THE CANADIAN PRESS

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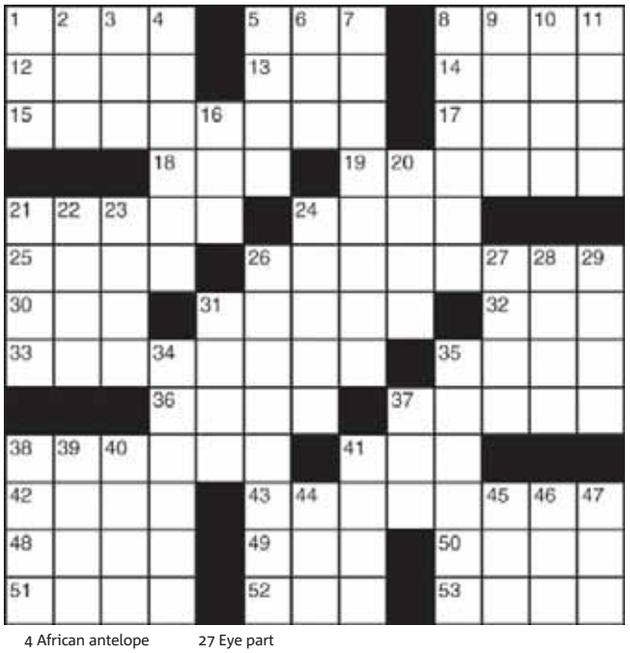
Crossword



Across

1 "Zounds!"
5 Oft-bracketed word
8 Scruff of the neck
12 Actress Spelling
13 Fed. med. agency
14 Hebrew month
15 Mixed drink
17 "The other white meat"
18 Party staple
19 Brownish-yellow shades
21 Characteristic
24 Spruce or sycamore
25 Batting champ Aaron
26 Aviation timesaver, maybe
30 "I'll take that as — "
31 Principal force
32 Fish eggs
33 Trachea
35 Baseball team
36 Libertine
37 Man of morals?
38 Honor
41 Have bills
42 Old Italian money
43 "Hush!"
48 Slender
49 Weeding tool
50 Maui feast
51 "Desire Under the —"
52 Helios
53 Formerly, formerly

Down

1 And so on (Abbr.)
2 Sticky stuff
3 Curved line
4 African antelope
5 Break suddenly
6 Midafternoon, on a sundial
7 Bleach ingredient
8 Family member
9 Lotion additive
10 Kitten's call
11 31-Down members
16 — for tat
20 Highlander
21 Dissolve
22 Hindu royal
23 In due time
24 Hosiery hue
26 Victories
27 Eye part
28 "—, Nanette"
29 Profound
31 Fraternal grp.
34 Reveries
35 Thread partner
37 Overwhelm
38 Otherwise
39 Window ledge
40 Decorate
41 Admitting customers
44 Debtor's letters
45 "— Town"
46 Existed
47 Eccentric

▶ Yesterday's answer

Sudoku

			5	4			9	7
6	3			7	1			2
	2				8		6	
	6	7				8	1	
	4		9				5	
7			6	8			3	1
2	1			3	9			

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ▶

1	3	9	5	8	7	4	2	6
6	4	7	3	2	1	8	9	5
2	5	8	6	9	4	1	3	7
7	2	4	9	1	6	5	8	3
5	9	1	8	7	3	6	4	2
3	8	6	2	4	5	7	1	9
9	6	5	4	3	8	2	7	1
8	1	3	7	5	2	9	6	4
4	7	2	1	6	9	3	5	8

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You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Davidson
Dear Davidson <3, We've been together for so long. And I'm sure your heart's been aching. Don't worry, because I'm never gonna give you up. or let you down. I won't even run around. Because I'll never forget you. Love,
FROM RASTLEY

My Special Prince Charming Fear not my sweet darling, I am waiting impatiently for you to contact me anytime and leave me a message. I really want to hear your voice and be forever with you. You are my special and true love! We have to be strong and have faith and hope if we really have the same feelings for each other! Love you very, very much! No matter what happens, you are and will be in my heart for ever and ever... With all my love and kisses...
FROM C. L. YOURS FOREVER

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Wednesday 6°/2° Sunny
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Today's horoscope

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♈ Aries March 21-April 20 If you are the kind of Aries who likes to travel you could find yourself a long way from home today — and enjoying yourself immensely.

♉ Taurus April 21-May 21 Either you love what you are doing, or you do something else.

♊ Gemini May 22-June 21 You will be under a lot of pressure today and because the pressure comes from partners and colleagues you could fall out with someone.

♋ Cancer June 22-July 22 You'll be busy and you may find it hard to catch your breath over the next 24 hours.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug.23 You are in the mood to take action.

♍ Virgo Aug. 24- Sept. 22 You'll have to tread carefully when dealing with loved ones.

♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23 No matter how irritating others may be you must not let them get under your skin.

♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22 What happens today may be important but it's how you choose to react to it that matters more.

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21 You seem to be remarkably assertive at the moment, which is good, but try not to give others the impression that the only thing you care about is your own greater glory, even if it happens to be true!

♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20 Are you afraid to say something because it might upset powerful people? Speak up.

♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18 Life is many things, but most of all it is there to be enjoyed.

♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20. You seem to have energy to spare at the moment and if you are smart you will channel it into your work or career. SALLY BROMPTON

MISHA JAPARIDZE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caption contest

HEIKKI SAUKKOMAA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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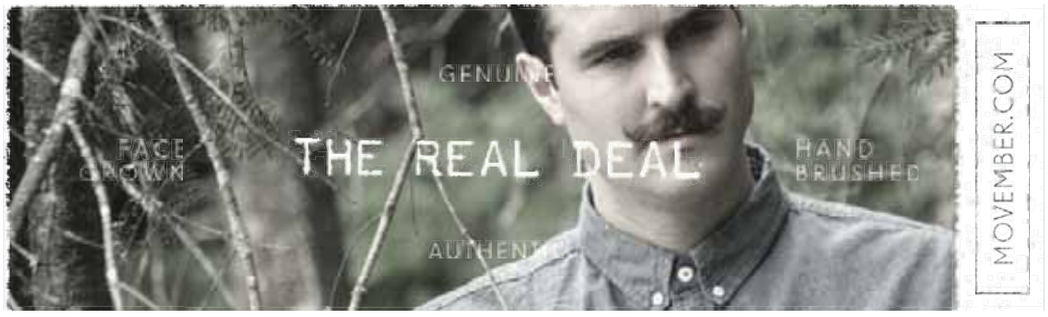

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